

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 23.

The National Intelligencer speaking of the case of Gen. Rosecrans says:—"Now that Gen. Rosecrans has been removed from the command of the Army of the Cumberland, it is instructive to observe that some of the journals which were previously foremost in fulsome laudations of his military capacity are swift to circulate all manner of rumors derogatory alike to his personal and military character. Never was there a better illustration of the uncertain tenure by which favor is held when it proceeds from those who propose to themselves no higher rule of duty than that of obsequious assentation to the conceived wishes of men in place."

The obituary notices of the late Col. Thomas Ruffin, of N. C., speak in high terms of his personal character. He was for several years a member of the U. S. House of Representatives, where he remained until his State passed the ordinance of secession. He then entered the Confederate army and was taken prisoner on the Peninsula, his command being nearly annihilated. Shortly after he was exchanged, and on his return was commissioned Colonel of cavalry. At Bristoe he fell mortally wounded in the head, and died in the U. S. hospital at Alexandria, where every attention was bestowed upon him by the U. S. Surgeons.

Nearly fifty alleged Confederate deserters were sent in from the provost marshal general of the Army of the Potomac, in different squads, yesterday, and committed to the Old Capitol Prison, Washington. Also, Thomas Mayhew, a citizen, arrested on suspicion; J. W. Baltus, R. T. Mason, Frank A. Belton, residents of Culpeper, to be returned through the lines; John Dixon, Charles Johnson, probably deserters, claim to be citizens of Alexandria; Geo. Leon claims to be a Catholic priest, who came to Warrenton to establish a church; Orlando Chester, a clergyman, who came into the Federal lines at Bristow.

The bill for the suppression of gambling, which has recently passed the Virginia Confederate Legislature at Richmond, provides for the confiscation of all buildings occupied by gamblers, or slaves employed by them, &c., and authorizes the judge before whom offenders may be convicted to order them to be well flogged at the public whipping-post.

The Washington Chronicle says:—"The appointment by the Mexican Government of a full Legation to the U. S. at this time, shows the importance which Mexico attaches to the action of the U. S. at the present moment; they will be received with a hearty welcome."

The steamer Keyport heretofore running between Baltimore and Alexandria, will not, for the present, make her regular trips, being she now in the employment of the U. S. Government, and will be, probably, for some weeks to come.

Under the late call by Mr. Lincoln for troops, the States thus far apportioned are: New York, 38,268; Indiana, 18,997; Massachusetts, 15,120; Maine 7,581; Connecticut, 5,432; Vermont 3,331; New Hampshire, 3,708; Delaware, 1,155.

THE TRAGEDY IN ST. MARY'S, MD.

We inserted yesterday a telegraphic report of a lamentable tragedy which occurred on Tuesday last in St. Mary's county, Maryland, originating in the efforts of Lieut. White, attached to one of the companies of the negro regiment now recruiting in Maryland, to enlist slaves from the plantation of Col. J. H. Sothoron, on the Patuxent river. Since then we have received the following account of the affray, and of the provocation to it, signed by several citizens of high respectability who reside in the vicinity where it occurred. We are authorized to exhibit the names of the signers to any person interested in knowing them:—[Nat. Int.]

"It appears that a party of negro soldiers from Balt., with two white officers, arrived in Benedict on Monday evening for the purpose of obtaining negro recruits for the army. After establishing themselves and obtaining some fifty recruits from the slaves in the neighborhood and sending them off, a party of two negroes and a white officer visited the plantation of Col. John H. Sothoron, in St. Mary's county, a few miles from Benedict. It appears, from the best evidence that we can obtain and which we believe to be correct, that the officer in command informed Col. Sothoron that his business was to carry off his able bodied slaves, and that Col. Sothoron consented that he might do so provided the negroes were willing to go with him. The negroes all declined to leave, and said that they preferred remaining with their master.—An altercation ensued, in which the officer declared his determination to carry off the negroes or die, and Col. Sothoron his intention to protect them. A struggle took place, in which the officer was killed and a colored soldier wounded. The whole party then left Benedict for their headquarters in St. Mary's, declaring their intention to return to-day and take possession of Col. Sothoron's plantation. This we believe to be a true statement of the case, as far as can be obtained. And we will further add that there has been no resistance in the neighborhood, and that the officer carried on his recruiting without being interfered with, and in this case no white person was present but Col. Sothoron and his son and the officer above mentioned."

Gen. Heintzelman has so far recovered from his sickness as to be able to be out of his quarters, but not sufficiently so to justify him in reporting for duty. When sufficiently restored in health he is to resume the discharge of the duties of the command of the Washington military department.

The Washington Star says in reference to army movements, that the information received, "leads to the conclusion that Gen. Meade's advance on Wednesday night, was several miles beyond Culpeper Ct. House."

Two gardens, in the southern part of this city, were robbed of almost their entire contents last night. A private watch, by housekeepers, is suggested for the preservation of their property.

Gen. J. D. H. Hill, of the Confederate army, has been relieved of his command, and Gen. Breckinridge takes command of his corps.

The trouble in Europe about the duchy of Holstein, continues, and makes a "speck of war."

Henry Ward Beecher, has been delivering addresses at Glasgow and at Manchester. The Examiner and Times gives over broad of its broad columns to the report of an address which Mr. Beecher delivered to an audience of 6,000 persons. There was some disturbance at the opening of the meeting, but Mr. Beecher finally succeeded in quieting it.

CRITICISMS ON SHAKESPEARE.—Some weeks ago Mr. Hackett, the actor, received the following letter from President Lincoln which he (Hackett) published:

EXECUTIVE MANSIONS,
WASHINGTON, Aug. 17, 1863.

My Dear Sir—Months ago I should have acknowledged the receipt of your book and accompanying kind note, and I now have to beg your pardon for not having done so.

For one of my age I have seen very little of the drama. The first presentation of "Falstaff" I ever saw was yours here last winter or spring. Perhaps the best compliment I can pay is to say, as I truly can, I am very anxious to see it again. Some of Shakespeare's plays I have never read, while others I have gone over perhaps as frequently as any professional reader. Among the latter are Lear, Richard III., Henry VIII., Hamlet, and especially Macbeth. I think none equals Macbeth. It is wonderful. Unlike you, gentlemen of the profession, I think the soliloquy in Hamlet commencing "Oh my offence is rank," surpasses that commencing "To be or not to be." But pardon this small attempt at criticism.—I should like to hear you pronounce the opening speech of Richard III.

"Will you not soon visit Washington again? If you do, please call, and let me make your personal acquaintance. Yours truly,

A. LINCOLN."

While the newspapers on this side of the Atlantic, were satirical in their comments on this letter, there was one at least, on the other side which took another view. The Liverpool Post contends that "its simplicity and candor are as fresh as new-mown hay"—and that it displays, "judgment and sense."

TRADE AND CURRENCY OF THE U. S.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says:—

"The state of our trade with foreign countries illustrates the truth of the old politico-economic maxim that an inflated currency swells the volume of trade and begets general extravagance. Thus we import for the trade year of 1862-3 one hundred and thirty-seven millions of dollars in value at foreign estimates. Add to this the difference between our paper and the gold, or its equivalent with which we pay, (at an average say of 33 per cent.) and also another 33 per cent. as the average of duties—which is a small figure—add also another 33 per cent. for profits before the imported articles get to the consumer or tax-payer, and we have in round numbers two hundred and seventy millions as the cost of imported articles to our people for the last trade year.—Against this we can only put our exports of breadstuffs, which amount to about a quarter of that sum. The seventy or eighty millions, which remain to pay abroad must be paid in gold. The trade year in which we now are embarked bids fair to exceed the last in imports of articles of extravagance, while the exports must materially fall off on account of the large crops of Europe the present season."

MARRIED.

On the 20th ult., in Washington, by the Rev. John Thrush, JOHN HOUGH and PLEASANT C. GRUBB, all, formerly, of Loudoun county, Va.

DIED.

At "Sunny Side," Prince George's county, Md., of typhoid fever, October 18, 1863, MARY ELIZABETH, daughter of Rev. John Martin, aged 16 years, 7 months.

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E. O. NORTON, Agent.

Washington, oct 21—1y